

The broadcast flag is a horrible idea.

Currently, I watch a lot of television, but very little of it live. I record the shows I am interested in on a VCR, then watch them later, sometimes months later. Some I watch with my wife or child, some I save to watch with my parents, should they come to visit. I almost always record over the shows after I'm through watching them. When watching with my child, I make sure to fast forward over commercials or other content that I do not deem suitable for him.

The broadcast flag would make this behavior impossible. Broadcasters could demand that I watch shows when they are broadcast, make my child watch commercials, or make other similar demands that would take away the freedom I have now to watch shows when, how and with whom I want.

In closing, I urge you to require the content industry to demonstrate that its proposed technologies will allow for all legal uses and will actually achieve the stated goal of preventing piracy. If they cannot, I urge you not to mandate the broadcast flag.